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(71) Applicant: ACROMED CORPORATION  
Cleveland Ohio 44115 (US)

(72) Inventors:

- Yuan, Hansen A.  
Fayetteville, New York 13066 (US)
- Benzel, Edward C.  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87122 (US)

• DiNello, Alex

Pala Alto, California 94303 (US)

• Wefers, Michael H.

South Euclid, Ohio 44121 (US)

• Smith, Aaron C.

Gibsonia, Pennsylvania 15044 (US)

(74) Representative:

Rottmann, Maximilian R.

c/o Rottmann, Zimmermann + Partner AG

Glattalstrasse 37

8052 Zürich (CH)

(54) Connecting element for a stabilizing system for a human spine

(57) An apparatus for retaining first and second vertebrae of a spinal column in a desired spatial relationship comprises first and second longitudinal members positionable along the spinal column. A first member connects the first and second longitudinal members to the first vertebra and second member connects the first and second longitudinal members to the second vertebra. A connector for interconnecting the first and second longitudinal members extends between the first and second longitudinal members and transverse to the first and second longitudinal members. The connector includes a band defining first and second openings through which the first and second longitudinal members are extendable. The band includes first and second portions movable relatively between a first position in which the first and second band portions clamp the first and second longitudinal members in said first and second openings and a second position in which the first and second band portions are released from clamping the longitudinal members in said first and second openings.

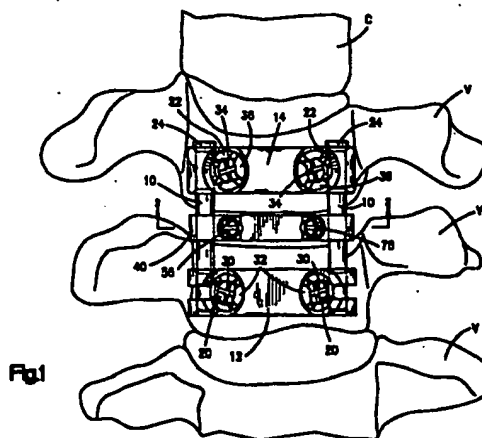


Fig. 1



European Patent  
Office

# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 97 10 6887

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cls.)
X	DE 44 34 574 A (ULRICH HEINRICH) 4 April 1996 * the whole document *	1-14	A61B17/70
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cls.)
			A61B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search BERLIN		Date of completion of the search 17 October 1997	Examiner Jameson, P
<b>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</b> X: particularly relevant if taken alone Y: particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A: technological background O: non-written disclosure P: intermediate document T: theory or principle underlying the invention E: earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D: document cited in the application L: document cited for other reasons &: member of the same patent family, corresponding document			